

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 /073 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6163

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

URFHBS/USMISSION EC BRUSSELS 1392

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 0458

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, CY, TU

SUBJ: EUROPEAN COUNCIL REPORT FOR TURKISH HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

REF: LONDON 0847

1. COUNCIL OF EUROPE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION'S REPORT
ACCUSING GOT OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CYPRUS DURING
1974-75 PERIOD GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN JANUARY 20
TURKISH PRESS. MOST ARTICLES ARE BASED ON FRENCH AND
BRITISH PRESS ACCOUNTS.

2. MASS CIRCULATION (AND GREECE-BAITING) HURRIYET CARRIES
BANNER HEADLINE PROCLAIMING "NEW PLOTS BEING WORKED OUT
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ABOUT CYPRUS--MAKARIOS AND GREECE ARE PROVING EUOPE
AGAINST US." LIBERAL MILLIYET, IN ITS FRONT PAGE HEDLINE
CHARACTERIZES THE REPORT AS BIASED. MILLIYET COUNIST
NILUFER YALCIN QUOTES TURKISH AUTHORITIES AS SAYING THE
REPORT OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IS ONE-SIDED HAVING
BEEN BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED ONLY BY GREEK CYPRIOT
SOURCES. THESE SAME AUTHORITIES ALSO CLAIM THE REPORT WAS

LEAKED TO THE PRESS BY GREEK CYPRIOTS.

3. PRESS ACCOUNTS ARE CONFLICTING ABOUT EXPECTED FATE OF THE REPORT. SOME ARTICLES CLAIM THAT REPORT IS NOT ON AGENDA FOR JANUARY 27-28 MINISTERS MEETING AND WILL THEREFORE NOT BE AN ISSUE DURING THAT MEETING. OTHER STORIES SUGGEST REPORT WILL BE DISCUSSED AT MEETING AND INDICATE GOT PLANS TO TAKE THE OFFENSIVE TO HEAD OFF ENDORSEMENT OF THE REPORT.

4. CONSERVATIVE TERCUMAN COMMENTS EDITORIALY THAT REPORT CAN HAVE SERIOUS EFFECT ON TURKEY'S RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND URGES THE GOT TAKE ACTION TO COUNTER THIS "GREEK PROPAGANDA." MILLIYET EDITOR ABDI IPEKCI CRITICIZES DEMIREL GOVERNMENT FOR ITS OSTRICH-LIKE BEHAVIOR IN NOT COUNTERING REPORT IN ITS FORMATIVE STAGES.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH DEMIREL GOVERNMENT WILL BE CRITICIZED BY SOME OPPOSITION PRESS FOR INEPT HANDLING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, GREAT MAJORITY OF TURKS WILL SIMPLY VIEW HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION REPORT AS ANOTHER IN LONG SERIES OF ANTI-TURKISH EFFORTS BY GREEK CYRIOTS (AN SUPPORTED BY GREEKS). REPORT MAY THEREFORE MAKE IT EVEN MORE DIFFICULT THAN USUAL TO PERSUADE TURKS IN DAYS IMMEDIATELY AHEAD THAT GREEKS AND GREEK CYPRIOTS SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN NEGOTIATIONS ON CYPRUS QUESTION. MOREOVER, TO THE EXTENT THIS REPORT BECOMES AN ISSUE AT COUNCIL OF EUROPE MINISTERIAL MEETING, IT WILL DIMINISH PROSPECTS FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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A PRODUCTIVE MEETING BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTERS BITSIOS AND CAGLAYANGIL.
MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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